

Appl. No.: 10/672,045  
Amdt. dated March 30, 2005  
Reply to Office action of December 22, 2004

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

#### Claim Status

Claims 1-19 were pending. Claim 15 has been canceled. Claims 12, 14, and 16 have been amended. Claims 1-14 and 16-19 are now pending.

Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of canceled claim 15. The claim scope is unchanged relative to the canceled claim.

Claim 14 has been amended into independent form. The claim scope is unchanged by this amendment.

Claim 16 has been amended to alter its dependence.

#### Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 12-13 and 16-19 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by "Fractured Reservoir Characterization and Performance Forecasting Using Geomechanics and Artificial Intelligence" ("Ouenes"). To expedite prosecution, applicants have amended claims 12 and 16 to incorporate subject matter indicated by the examiner to be allowable.

Specifically, claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 15, which the examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter. For at least this reason, independent claim 12 and its dependent claims 13 and 17-19 are allowable over the cited art.

Claim 16 has been amended to depend from claim 14, which the examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter. For at least this reason, claim 16 is allowable over the cited art.

The foregoing amendments should not be taken as indicating acquiescence with the examiner's position. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the original claims in one or more continuation applications.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-11 are allowed.

Claims 14-15 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claim 14 has been amended into independent form. Applicants have canceled claim 15 and incorporated its

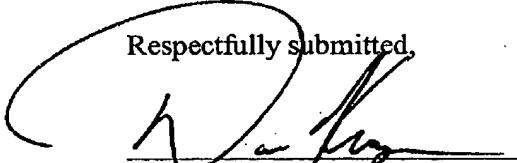
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limitations into independent claim 12. Claims 12 and 14 are consequently believed to be in condition for allowance.

**Conclusion**

In the course of the foregoing discussions, applicant may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future. If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Conley Rose, P.C. Deposit Account Number 03-2769/1780-03601/HDJK.

Respectfully submitted,



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